

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-19.

Please add the following new claims 20-32.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

20. (new) A method of making a prosthetic joint, comprising the steps of:  
determining a clearance distance between (i) a first articular surface of a  
first component of said prosthetic joint, and (ii) a second articular surface of a  
second component of said prosthetic joint;

deriving a baseline contact area value for said first articular surface and  
said second articular surface; and

forming interruptions in both said first articular surface and said second  
articular surface based on said baseline contact area value.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of deriving said  
baseline contact area value includes the step of performing Hertzian analysis.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of performing  
Hertzian analysis includes the step of applying contact mechanic equations.

23. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of deriving a baseline contact area value includes calculating a contact area of a low-wearing prosthetic joint.

24. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein said forming step includes the step of forming said interruptions in both said first articular surface and said second articular surface to a depth of less than one millimeter.

25. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein:

    said first component is formed of a first material,

    said second component is formed of a second material, and

    said first material is different from said second material.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein:

    said first material includes metal, and

    said second material includes plastic.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein said plastic includes a polyethylene material.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein said metal includes cobalt chromium.

29. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein:

    said first material includes metal, and

    said second material includes metal.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said metal includes cobalt chromium.

31. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein:

    said first material includes ceramic, and

    said second material includes ceramic.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said ceramic is selected from the group consisting of: alumina and zirconia.